

THIS PHOTO: The freestanding tub's curvy lines complement the bathroom's curved architecture. **OPPOSITE:** A stainless-steel cart transports towels and other necessities to wherever they're needed in the bath.





upstairs & down

A home-building couple fashion a two-level master suite for themselves.

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Mark Hancock couldn't help but bring his work home with him. A third-generation home builder, Mark and his wife, Julie, work together in Phoenix but found the perfect vacation home in San Diego—perfect to renovate, that is. The couple particularly loved the home's single-room third level, and Mark immediately envisioned it as a master suite.

"The room had spectacular views," Julie says, "but also a spectacular flaw—it had no bathroom." However, directly below the master bedroom, and connected by a private staircase, was a small bedroom and bath. That space was disjointed and not very functional, but with a builder's eye, Mark saw its potential as a spacious master bathroom to serve the master bedroom above. The couple hired Phoenix designers Kim Barnum and Teresa Nelson to work with Julie on outfitting and decorating the space.

A newly arched under-stairway niche struck Mark as a charming spot for a tub, so the designers created a plan around that feature. Finding the right tub became Julie's mission. "It was important to me, because I ride horses competitively, and





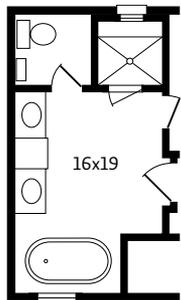
after a long day of show jumping, I like a long, hot soak,” she says. So when Julie went shopping for tubs, she climbed into each one and sat down to try it out. “The freestanding spa tub that I finally picked was spacious and beautiful, and I liked its styling,” she says.

Adjacent to the tub, the designers placed a small bureau between two cantilevered sink bases of lightly veined marble. “The open area under the sinks offers storage but keeps the room from feeling heavy,” Barnum says. Traditional sconces flank square, tilting mirrors mounted above the sinks. “I love that I can dim the lighting in the evening,” Julie says. “It makes the room look glamorous.”

Julie also enjoys the European styling of the bath fixtures, such as the rain showerhead. The walk-in shower’s arched entrance echoes the arch of the tub niche. “Exposed plumbing like the shower fixture

serves as the jewelry for the room,” Barnum says. White and celadon tiles on the walls and travertine floor tile in a basket-weave pattern contribute to the room’s fresh, clean look.

The new master bath, Julie says, was “unequivocally worth the wait.” **KBI**



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TOP LEFT: The shower’s exposed fixtures mimic those of a fine hotel. TOP RIGHT: Floating vanities maintain an open look, visually enlarging the space. ABOVE: Textured tile and polished chrome faucets lend the vanities a clean, bright style. OPPOSITE: The shower includes a built-in bench for comfort and a glass door, which keeps light flowing throughout the room.